Upon reviewing the new version of the Draft-History-Social Science Framework, I have to say that I am disappointed.

Focusing specifically on the Grade 11 - US History aspect, it appears that all you have done is repackage the existing standards in a more readable narrative format (with admittedly some helpful teaching examples). HOWEVER, nothing has been done to deal with the mile wide and mile deep content expected to be covered. In my opinion, this does NOT match with the Common Core/CA State Standard expectations.

Teachers cannot realistically teach this much content in any way other than superficially. Common Core (and common sense) demands teaching of critical thinking skills, in-depth primary source analysis, secondary source analysis, etc. Based on 11 years of teaching experience, I have found that you cannot have it both ways. I have used Stanford History Education Group (SHEG) type lessons in my regular US History and they are excellent but take time. To truly teach in a common core fashion, it's unreasonable to expect that I cover the amount of content this framework shows.

The content standards need to be changed so that bigger picture themes are emphasized WITHOUT an exhaustive list of required topics. The Vietnam War topic alone could span multiple weeks to do it justice as described but then you know something else gets cursory coverage just to "get it covered because it's on the standards."

The simple fact that the document is 1568 lines spanning 79 pages should be a pretty clear indication that something is wrong.

--
Mike Mazzie
Social Science & Computer Science Teacher
Academic Team Coach
Truckee High School
Phone: 530-582-2600
Internal #: 37210